BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME!

Castlevania®
Curse of Darkness™

1

Kou Sasakura

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TOKYOPOP®

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Fantasy
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Castlevania®
Curse of Darkness™

In the new manga based on the video game, a young boy becomes the focal point of Dracula's war on humanity.

In a small village near the Romanian border, young Ted waits for his father, a mercenary in the war against Count Dracula's demon army. Little does he know he is to become the center of a battle between two of the Count's most powerful generals...

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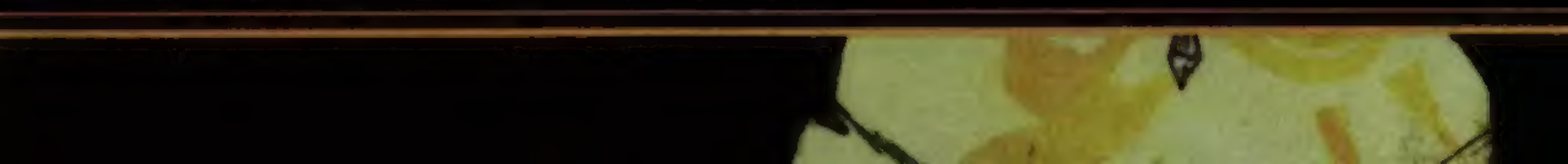
ALCHEMY...
IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE, THIS QUEST TO TURN METAL TO GOLD OR INORGANIC MINERAL INTO HUMAN FORM...
...WAS SAID TO BE AS GREAT A TASK AS RECREATING GOD'S CREATION OF THE EARTH...
SO STUDENTS OF ALCHEMY DILIGENTLY LABORED IN THEIR RESEARCH. HOWEVER...
...IN THE DOMAIN OF DEEP DARKNESS... DEVOTEES OF DEMONIC WAYS ALSO STUDIED FEVERISHLY...

..."DEMONIC ALCHEMY."
SOME USED POWERFUL DEMONIC FORCES TO CREATE SERVANT DEVILS LOYAL ONLY TO THEIR CREATOR...
IT WAS SAID ONLY TWO SEEKERS HAD SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED THIS HORRIBLE FEAT...

THE PLACE WHERE THEY ACHIEVED THE DEMONIC FEAT... THE CASTLE...



THE PEOPLE CALLED
IT CASTLEVANIA...

Castlevania®
Curse of Darkness

Vol. 1

By
Kou Sasakura

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Castlevania: Curse of Darkness - Volume 1

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Castlevania Curse of Darkness

1

Kou Sasakura

Castlevania Curse of Darkness

Chapter 1: Hector

klak
klak
klak

AS YOU ORDERED...
I HAVE ARRIVED JUST NOW, MY LORD.
GREAT LORD OF DARKNESS...
CHIEF OF OUR CLAN OF THE NIGHT...

THE DEMON LORD, COUNT DRACULA...

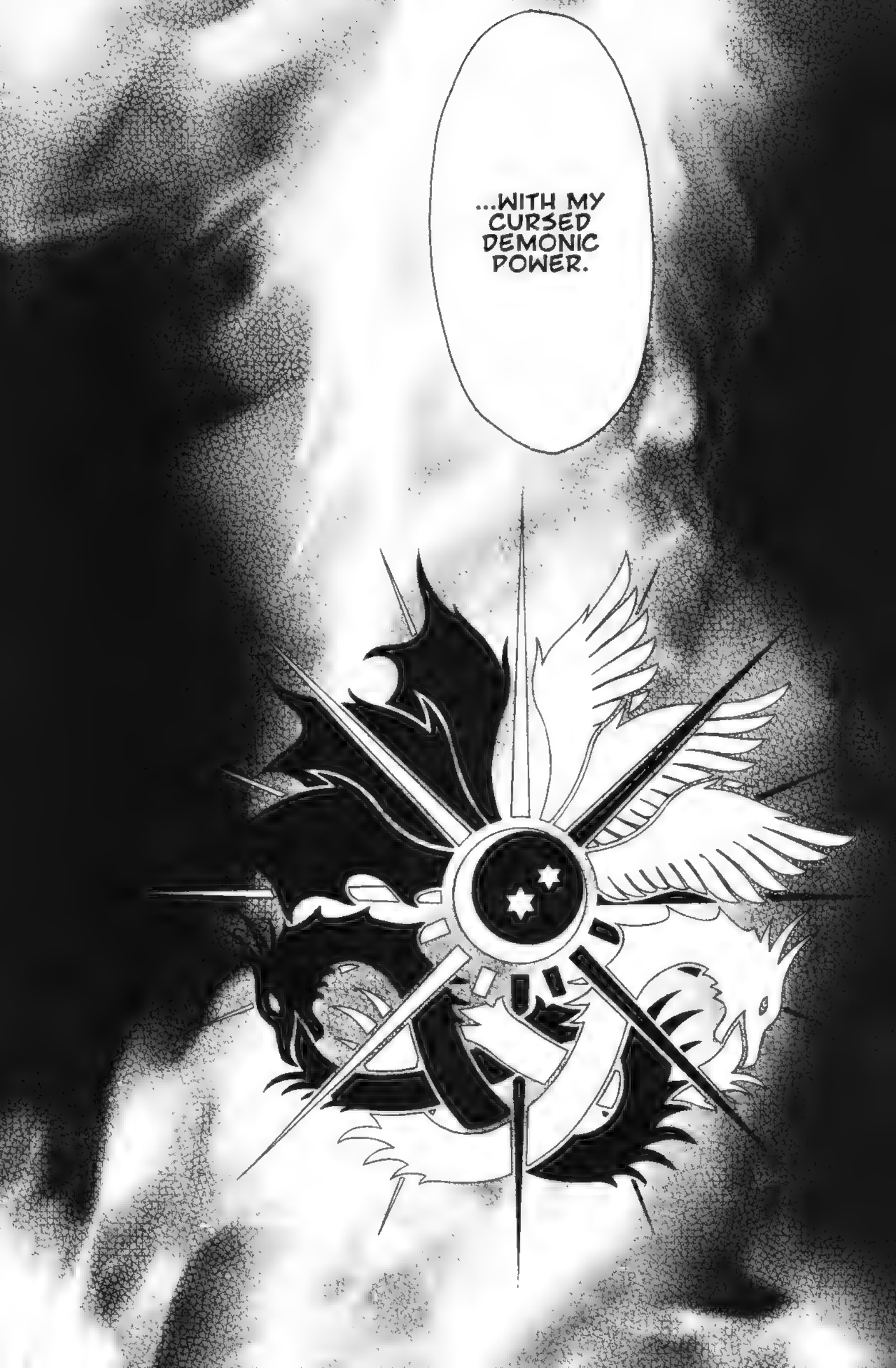
I SHALL HEAR YOUR REPORT.
AS YOU ORDERED, THE ARMY COMMISSIONED BY THE EASTERN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH...
...HAS BEEN NEARLY WIPED OUT BY OUR DEMON ARMY.
IT WAS TRULY, JAW-DROPPINGLY EASY.
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THEIR ARMIES ARE, NO MATTER HOW HIGHLY TRAINED THEIR MONKS ARE...
...THEY ARE ALL LIKE BABIES WHEN FACED WITH OUR DEMONIC POWER!!
EVEN NOW, AS THEY LIE IN THE RAIN...
...THEY'LL EITHER BECOME BAIT FOR STRAY DOGS...
...OR PREY FOR THE RAVENS.

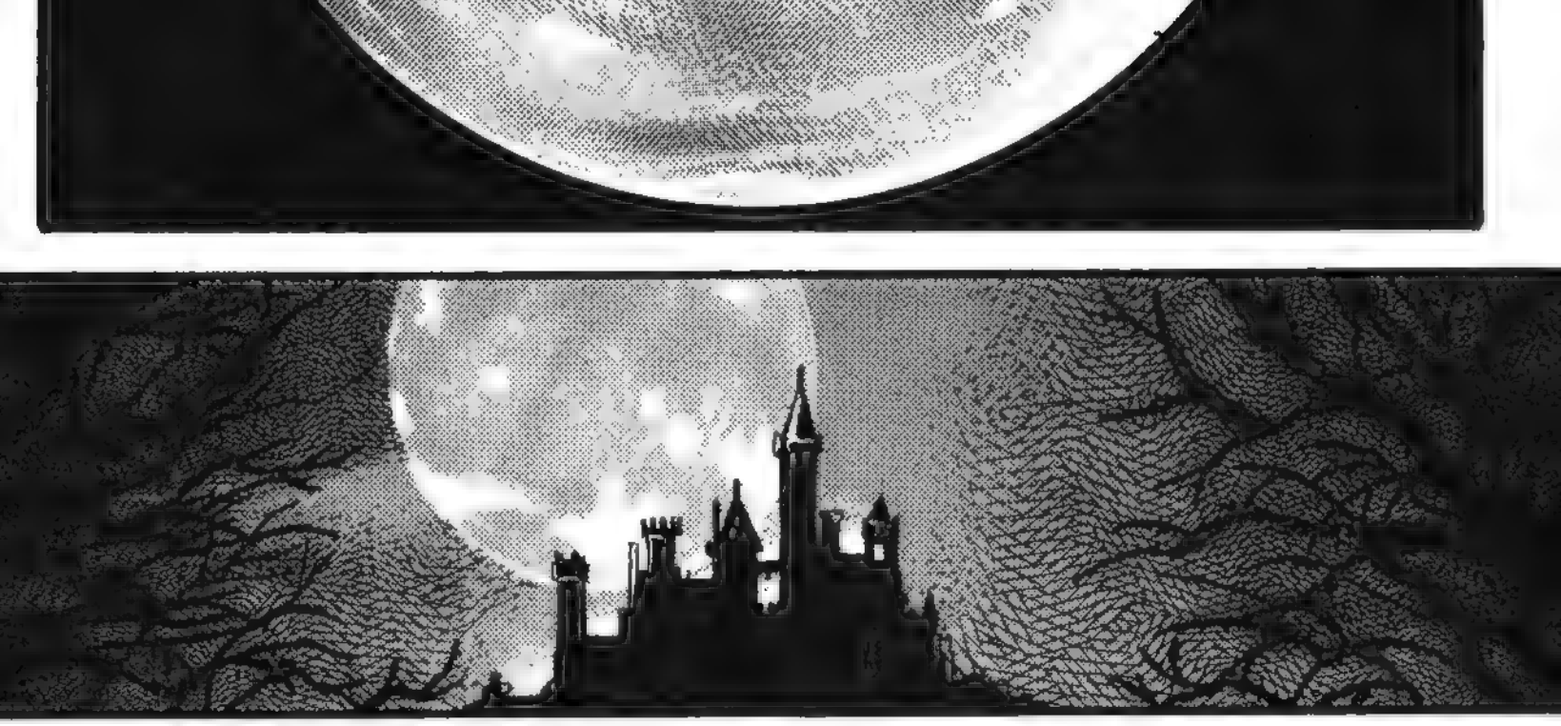
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY PRAY TO GOD...
NO MATTER HOW MANY HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF TROOPS THEY ASSEMBLE ...
ALL OF IT IS MEANING-LESS...
A MERE HUMAN ARMY IS NO MATCH FOR US.

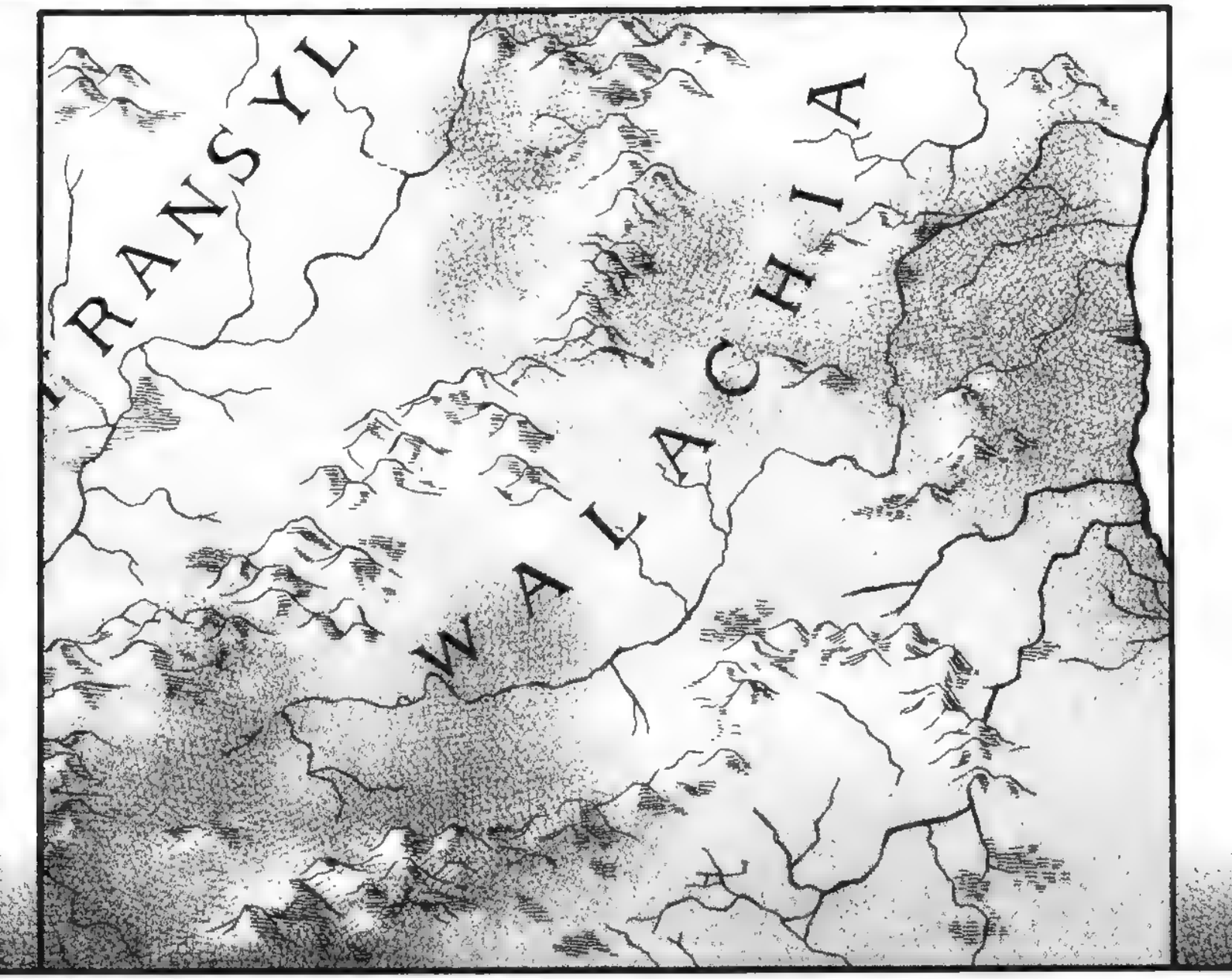
HUMANS SHALL REGRET THEIR SINS.
AND THE GLORY OF GOD SHALL FALL TO EARTH.
ALL OF EASTERN EUROPE WILL BE SEEPED IN HUMAN BLOOD.
...BUT THERE IS ONE THING.
INRI

IN THE WEST, THE BELMONT FAMILY HAS STARTED A MOVEMENT.
HE IS ONLY ONE HUMAN.
BUT HE MAY BE THE ONLY ONE THE OTHERS MIGHT STRUGGLE AGAINST.
CALLING HIMSELF THE GENUINE VAMPIRE HUNTER...
...THIS HEIR TO AN INSOLENT AND DISGUSTING CLAN DARES TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST US.
I BEG OF YOU, GRANT ME THE DUTY TO HUNT DOWN BELMONT.

MY NAME IS ISAAC.
I HAVE ABANDONED THE REASON OF MAN AND EMBRACED THE LAWS OF HERESY...
IF THERE IS ANY-ONE WHO SHOULD TROUBLE YOU, COUNT DRACULA...
...THEN I SHALL RIP HIM TO PIECES...


...WITH MY CURSED DEMONIC POWER.





15TH CENTURY, EUROPE, WALACHIA REGION

CAww
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW, THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ROMANIA...
...THESE DEVILS, WHO HAD UNTIL NOW ONLY BEEN TALKED ABOUT IN LEGEND...
HERETO-FORE BEEN HIDDEN BY THE DARK-NESS OF NIGHT...
...HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY FEARSOME MIS-FORTUNES WHICH GRIP THE POPULACE.

...SUDDENLY BEGAN TO APPEAR IN POPULATED AREAS.
THE LEADER OF THESE STRANGE CREATURES WAS A COUNT, DRESSED IN BLACK, CALLED DRACULA.
BORROWING THE POWER OF THE EVIL LORDS, HE SUMMONED FORTH THE DEVILS.
AND TRANSFORMED THE ENTIRE LAND OF WALACHIA INTO A WASTELAND OF DARKNESS AND BLOODSHED.

HAVING MOLDED THE TERRITORY AS HE PLEASED...

VIEWING THIS SITUATION WITH GREAT CONCERN, THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED A POWERFUL ARMY.

BUT EVEN AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS...

...NOT A SINGLE SOLDIER HAD RETURNED FROM WALACHIA...

...HE PLANNED TO SPREAD HIS EVIL GRIP TO THE REST OF EUROPE.

A TINY VILLAGE, NEAR THE BORDER OF ROMANIA.
キャハハ
Ah ha ha ha...
HEY YOU KIDS, YOU'D BETTER GET HOME BEFORE IT GETS TOO DARK.
YES, MA'AM.

GWAAH!
ESPECIALLY YOU, TED!
WHAT?! LET ME GO!
YOU KNOW, YOUR DAD IS ALWAYS ASKING ME...
YOU WERE PLAYING NEAR THE FOREST AT THE EDGE OF TOWN LAST NIGHT, WEREN'T YOU?!
ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHORES...
I AM! I'VE BEEN DOING THEM!
クス
クス
GOOD EVENING, TED, COLLETTE.
OH, ROSALEE, DEAR, YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY HOME NOW?
HOW IS YOUR HUS-BAND'S LEG?
HE EVEN WENT OUT TO WORK IN THE FIELDS TODAY.
AH! HE'S UP AND RUNNING NOW.

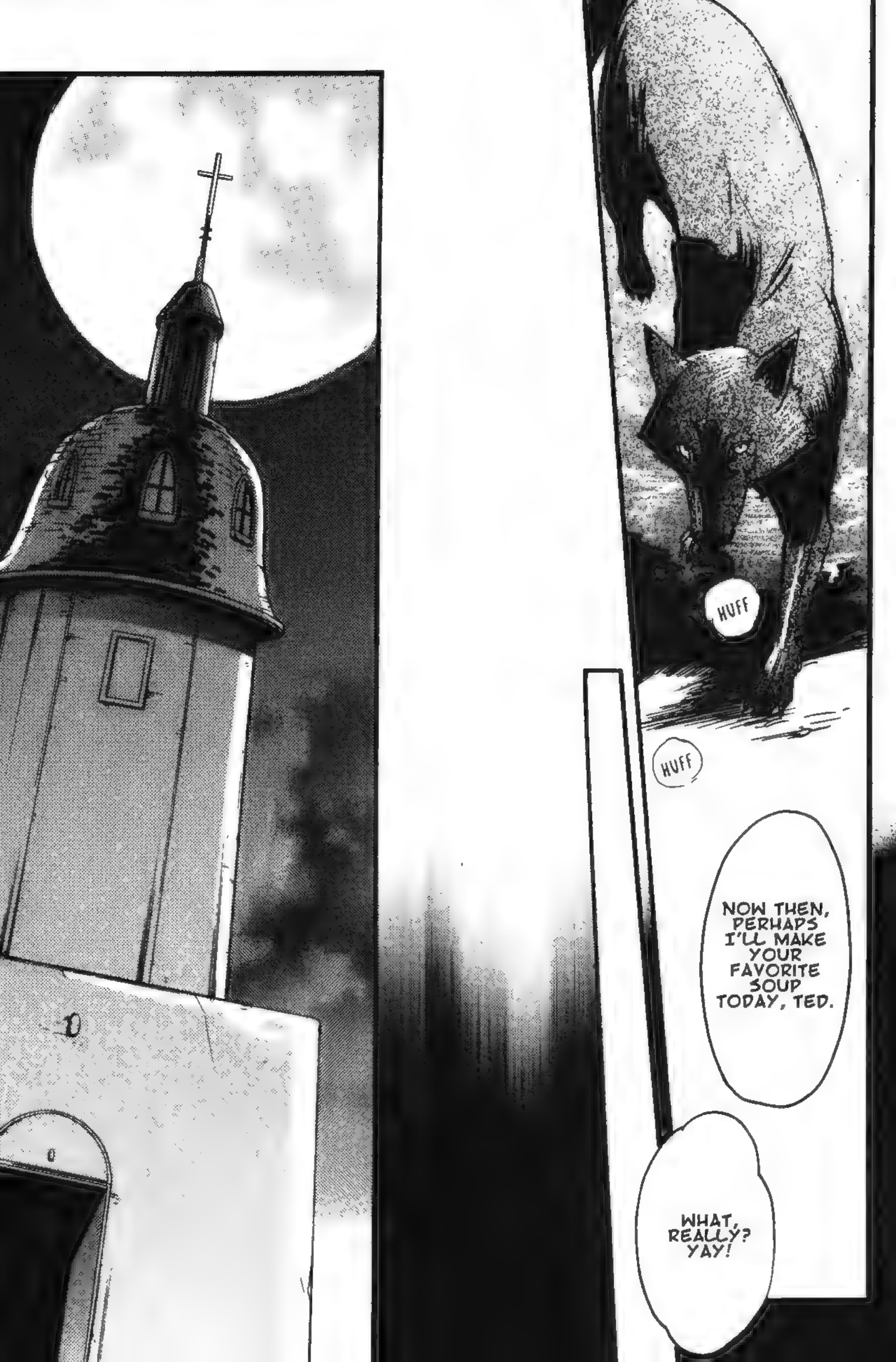
THANK YOU FOR DOING SOME MENDING WORK FOR ME THE OTHER DAY.
WE OWE A DEBT OF THANKS TO YOU, DEAR...
OH, IT WAS NO BOTHER. I WAS DOING OTHER WORK AS WELL.
I'M JUST BAD AT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS...
わいわい
.....
OH, MISS ROSALEE.

TCH.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO, SO I'LL BE GOING!
WHAT, HEY! WAIT, TED, I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU!
A.

THUD
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT FOR?!
YOU WERE PLANNING TO GO INTO THE FOREST, WEREN'T YOU, TED?
IT'S ONE THING TO WAIT FOR YOUR DAD, BUT DON'T DO IT AT NIGHT.
OH, WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER AND EAT DINNER TONIGHT, TED?
HE'S RIGHT. IT'S BEEN PRETTY DANGEROUS LATELY...
AND I'VE BEEN HEARING BAD RUMORS, TOO.
?!
!!
I WAS ABOUT TO PREPARE DINNER, BUT IT'S SO LONELY BY MYSELF.
OKAY?

THAT GUY IS STILL AT YOUR PLACE, ISN'T HE?
...
That sounds so nice
BUT, ROSALEE ...
IT WORRIES ME. YOU CARRYING HOME THAT STRANGER, FALLEN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. WHO KNOWS WHERE HE CAME FROM?
SINCE THE FATHER IS CURRENTLY AWAY, ARE YOU GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
AUNTIE...
IF SOME-THING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
NOT TO WORRY, NOT TO WORRY!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, ME AND TED WILL COME RUNNING.
RIGHT!
!!

THANK YOU...
MR. GREG. TED.
クス
HA HA HA HA...
WHA?
THAT HURT! YOU BIG GORILLA!!
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT...
LATELY THE SUN HAS BEEN GOING DOWN EARLY.
AND AUNTIE, TOO... I'M FINE.
HE'S A VERY POLITE MAN, AND IT SEEMS HE WILL BE LEAVING SOON.
REALLY?
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, THEN...
ALL RIGHT THEN, YOU SHOULD GO NOW. IT'S GOTTEN QUITE DARK.
エヘ//
YES.
HEY ...
HAS THE FATHER REALLY BEEN GONE ALL THIS TIME?
HE'S BEEN AWAY ON SOME VERY IMPOR- TANT BUSINESS...
HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
HUFF
NOW THEN, PERHAPS I'LL MAKE YOUR FAVORITE SOUP TODAY, TED.
WHAT, REALLY? YAY!

……
GULP
NOW, NOW, YOU DON'T NEED TO EAT SO FAST.
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF BREAD AND SOUP LEFT.
……
TODAY I HELPED MR. HORACE, AND HE GAVE ME LOTS OF POTATOES.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LOTS"? I KNOW THE DEAL.
HE MADE YOU WORK LIKE A DOG FOR 10 OR SO POTATOES.
Although I'm eating those potatoes now...
YOUR HANDS ARE RAVAGED FROM WORKING SO MUCH...
...AND YOU TAKE THOSE POTATOES YOU'VE RECEIVED AND IMMEDIATELY HAND THEM OUT TO OTHERS.
LIKE TODAY, JUST BECAUSE MY DAD HASN'T COME HOME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
YOU'RE TOO NICE, ROSALEE!

YOU'RE A KIND BOY, TED.
I... IT'S NOT LIKE I--!
YOU SEE, I REALLY LIKE TO WORK IN THE FIELDS...
...TO SEW, TO CARRY WATER...
...TO CLEAN, AND TO TAKE CARE OF HORSES. I LIKE ALL OF THAT.

TO SEE THE SMILES ON EVERY-ONE...
TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE BLESSINGS OF THE LAND...
TO FEEL THE COLD WATER, THE SEASONS...
TO BE ABLE TO BREAK BREAD WITH SOME-ONE...
TO GO TO SLEEP GIVING THANKS THAT THE DAY HAS ENDED SAFELY...
.....
I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED PLENTY OF WHAT I WANT FROM EVERYONE.
ALL THESE THINGS ARE WONDER-FUL AND RARE.

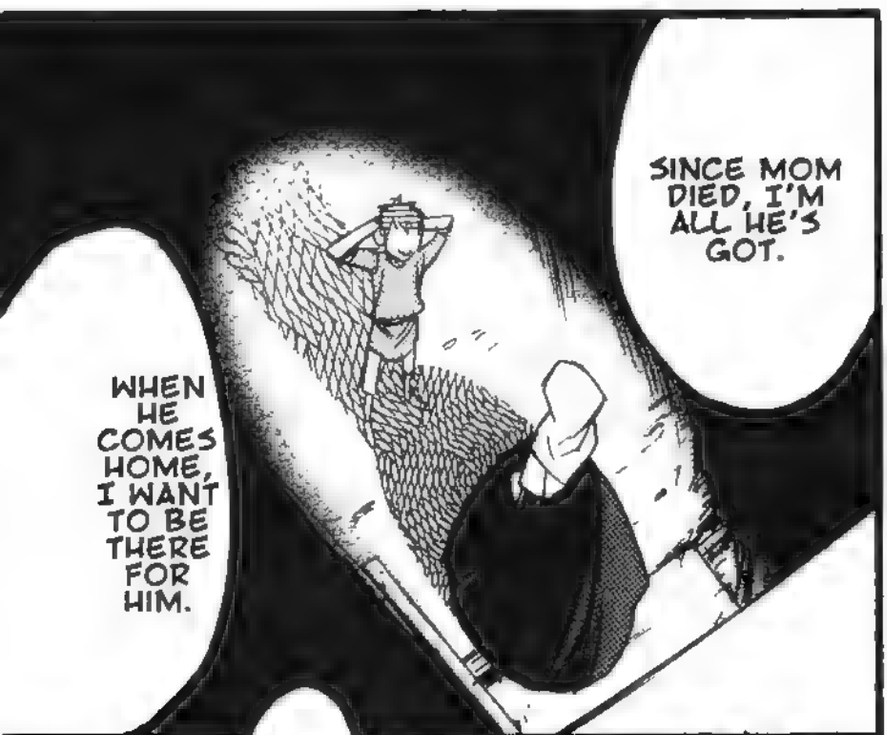
PLUNK
BUT...
WELL, OKAY...
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT, ROSALEE, THEN I'M FINE!
ドサッ
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BRING STRANGERS IN HERE.
.....
EVERYONE'S BEEN SAYING HOW DANGEROUS THINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING LATELY.
I'M WORRIED...

GYAAA!
HMMM...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
HE MUST BE CLOSE...
BUT...

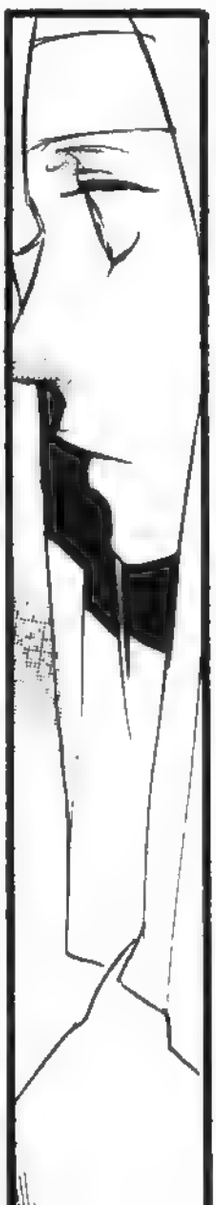
TED, I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY OVER...
IT'S OKAY!
OKAY, SEE YA! THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD...
...ROSA-LEE!
...AS LONG AS I'M HERE.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE EMPTY. DAD MIGHT COME HOME.
TED...

I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS ALL I'VE GOT.
TED...
...BUT...
...HE'S GOT HIS GOOD SIDE, TOO.
SINCE MY DAD IS A MERCENARY, HE DOESN'T HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION IN THE VILLAGE...

AS LONG AS I REMEMBER I'M BRANDISHING MY SWORD FOR YOU, I BELIEVE THAT I'LL COME BACK ALIVE NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE BEFORE. I'M NOT GOING BECAUSE I LIKE TO FIGHT ANYMORE.


SINCE MOM DIED, I'M ALL HE'S GOT.
WHEN HE COMES HOME, I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HIM.

TED...
YOU REALLY DO LOVE YOUR FATHER, DON'T YOU?



IT'S NICE TO HAVE A HOME TO COME BACK TO.
SO WAIT FOR ME. I PROMISE I'LL MAKE SOME MONEY AND COME BACK.

GYA...
HEH HEH...
GYAAA...
GYAAA...
.....
GYAAA...
BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ROSALÉE.
WHAT ...?
I DIDN'T SAY THIS BECAUSE HE WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM, BUT...

ALL THE STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING LATELY...
I HAVE A FEELING THEY STARTED WHEN HE CAME HERE.
THAT BIG BIRD BELONGS TO HIM, DOESN'T IT?
IT NEVER LEAVES THAT SPOT...
...LIKE IT'S STANDING WATCH OVER THIS CHURCH.
TED...

WHEN HE AWAKES, THEN YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND HAVE HIM LEAVE.
IT'S NOT JUST COLLETTE. EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS FEELING CREEPED OUT.
IF SOME-THING WERE TO HAPPEN...
...AND BECAUSE OF HIM, ROSALEE, YOU...
IF YOU GET TREATED LIKE A HERETIC ...!!
JUST THE FACT THAT A TRAVELER WOULD COME BY THIS VILLAGE IS STRANGE...
DON'T WORRY, TED...

IT MAKES ME HAPPY THAT YOU'RE WORRIED FOR ME.
BUT FOR YOU TO JUDGE SOMEONE WHEN YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM...
THAT MAKES ME SAD.
THE FACT THAT HE WAS HURT AND ENDED UP AT THE CHURCH....
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN GOD'S WILL.
HE DOESN'T SPEAK MUCH...
BUT HE WAS ON THE GROUND, AND COVERED WITH BLOOD...!
...BUT HE HAS BEAUTIFUL EYES.
EVEN IF HE IS CARRYING SOME KIND OF SIN...

ALL PEOPLE POSSESS GOOD AND BAD THINGS ABOUT THEM.
I...
...WANT TO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD IN PEOPLE.
I'M SURE THAT HE MUST HAVE CIRCUM-STANCES.
AND BESIDES ...
AS LONG AS HE ACKNOW-LEDGES HIS SINS...!
AND REPENTS THEM...
...I'M SURE THAT GOD WILL LEND A HELPING HAND.

I'LL COME BY AGAIN, SO IF YOU NEED ANYTHING JUST TELL ME, ROSALEE.
.....!
THE BIRDS SEEM SO AT-TACHED TO HIM!
That's what I think...
I'M SURE HE'S A GOOD PERSON.
WHAT IS IT?
ROSALEE ...
... RO ...
.....
Uh..
YOU'RE TOO NICE!

THANK YOU, TED. GOOD NIGHT.
ピピピ

COME TO THINK OF IT, FATHER SAID...
...SOMETHING OMINOUS HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN WALACHIA.
I FEAR THAT TED'S FATHER IS THERE...
I HOPE HE WILL COME BACK SAFELY...
PERHAPS...
HE CAME FROM THERE, TOO...
GYaaaa...

GYAAA
GYAAA
GYAAA
GYAAA
OH, WHAT A SUR-PRISE.
OH MY ...
IT SEEMS I FORGOT TO CLOSE THIS WINDOW.
HEH HEH ...
NOW THEN, I MUST PRE-PARE SUPPER FOR HIM.
I WONDER IF HE'LL EAT FOR ME TONIGHT.

...EA...
HUFF
EAT...
...AAT
EAT...?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HA HA... HA...
I CAN SMELL IT. I SMELL IT...
A WOMAN'S SMELL, AND...
HUFF
THE SCENT OF EVIL.
THE AROMATIC SCENT OF A DEVIL'S POWER.
クンクン
... ANOTHER SMELL.
A SCENT I'VE SMELLED BEFORE.

HUFF
HUFF
BUT ...
WHY AT A CHURCH?
HUFF
HERE HIS PRESENCE MUST BE HIDDEN.
.....
I SUPPOSE I'LL CLAIM AN ADVANCE ON MY REWARD.
AFTER ALL, I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT.
...WELL, NO MATTER. MY JOB HERE IS DONE ANYWAY.
FINALLY ...

GYAAAA...

WHAT IS IT...?
I FELT SOME-THING, JUST NOW...
SOME-THING AWFUL ...
AH!
.....?
ヒュウウウ
.....
GYAAA
GYAAA...

MISS ROSALEE ...?
IF DAD WERE TO COME HOME...
キュ!
ヒッ!
……!

PLEASE BE SAFE...
WHAT IS IT?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MISS ROSALEE ...
HUFF
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING.
HUFF

TED...!
WHY DID YOU COME BACK?!
RUN AWAY!
HURRY...!
A WERE-WOLF?!

NO. ROSALEE WILL BE...
HURRY!! RUN AWAY!!
AH
CRACK
HA HA ...
WH-WHAT, IT'S JUST A KID...?
I'M IN LUCK ...
HUFF
HA HA HA ...
A KID...
A KID'S MEAT...IS SOFT. MY FAVORITE.
HUFF
AH...

LATER...
I'LL EAT YOU LATER.
...NGH...
AH...
WAAAHHH!!

……!!

AGH...!
TED!!
GRRRR...
...HM?
WHAT AN IMPATIENT LITTLE PUNK...
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT...
.....!

HUFF
...YOU...
WHERE HAVE I...?
HUFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
.....?
HA...
HA HA HA!
HA...
HA HA HA...
I... I...
I REMEMBER.
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. THIS SMELL...

...THE SAME RED HAIR...
IT WAS A MERCENARY. HE HAD A SMELL JUST LIKE YOURS...
...AND THE SAME BLUE EYES.
...!
ドキン
A FEW DAYS AGO, IN THE WESTERN FOREST...
HA HA HAAA...
HE WAS QUITE FORMIDABLE, FOR A HUMAN.
ドキ
DAD... OH MY GOD...
BUT ALAS...
WELL.

I'VE EATEN HIM ALREADY.
DAD...
...AH...

NGH!!
GWAAAHHH!

ゴオ
ドオ
!!

WAAAGH!
YOU PUNK...
!!
DAMN YOU... YOU WANT ME TO EAT YOU FIRST THAT BADLY ...?
...NGH...

WOOO

RUN AWAY, TED!
ROSA-LEE...
HURRY....!
RUN, AND DON'T TURN BACK...
...UNTIL YOU REACH SOME-WHERE SAFE.
YOU CAN GET OUTSIDE THROUGH THAT DOOR!

AND TAKE HIM WITH YOU!
HURRY ...!

THAT'S RIGHT. THIS GUY...
HE'S BEEN IN THIS ROOM NEXT DOOR THIS WHOLE TIME.
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IF YOU DON'T DO SOME-THING, ROSALEE WILL BE--
TED!!
WHY ARE YOU JUST WATCHING AND NOT DOING ANYTHING?!

ROSA
...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY AND RUN!
DON'T WASTE ANY TIME!
BUT HE HAS A WEAPON...
.....!!
...NGH...
WHY DOESN'T HE DO ANYTHING ...?!
ガ!!

SHIT....!

TED...?!
.....
TED...!
AGH
TED!!
HA HA HA HA...
I GOT YOU BACK, PUNK...
KYAAAAAA...!
...NGHK...
DAMN IT... WHY ...?!
NGHK...

IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE OF ANY USE IN A TIME LIKE THIS...
..WHY ARE YOU A SOL-DIER?
ROSALEE SAVED YOU!
ARE YOU GOING TO JUST SIT AND WATCH HER DIE?!
WHY...?
DAMMIT ...
SHIT...
...NGH...
...NGH...
WHY...?!
YOU...
YOU'RE A SOLDIER, AREN'T YOU...?!
WHY WON'T YOU HELP US?!

I CAN'T DO IT!
BUT YOU...
PLEASE ...!
PLEASE SAVE ROSALEE...!
GRRR...
SORRY, BUT...
...MY POWERS AREN'T SUITED TO HELPING PEOPLE.
WHA...?!
IF I WAS, LIKE YOU SAY...
...JUST AN ORDINARY SOLDIER ...

...LIKE SOME HERO IN A WELL-TOLD STORY...
IF I WAS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE HOBBY WAS TO SAVE OTHERS...
...THEN MAYBE I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SAVE YOU.
BUT UNFORTU-NATELY, I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.
BESIDES, MY POWERS ARE...
HA...
HA HA HA...
HA...
HA...
HA...
HOW PITIFUL IT IS TO BE HELPLESS!
.....!

HUMANS ARE SO FRAGILE.
AND SO FOOLISH, TOO.
THEY ARE WELL SUITED TO BEING RULED BY US.
ROSALEE...!
HUFF
MMM...
SMELLS NICE.
...NGH...
HUFF
THE SMELL OF A FEAST, THE LIKES OF WHICH I HAVEN'T HAD IN A WHILE...

TWITCH
W-WALA-CHIA IS NOW ...
IN TH-TH-THIS WORLD, POWER IS AB-SOLUTE.
.....
...STINKING WITH SOLDIERS AND PRIESTS.
WALACHIA !!?
HURRY, HURRY, WE NEED COUNT DRACULA TO MASSACRE THEM ALL.
THOSE WITHOUT POWER MUST BE RULED BY US, OR BECOME FOOD...
WITHOUT BOUNDS, THE REIGN OF COUNT DRACULA SHALL COME...
WHAT A SURPRISE. AN UNREFINED WEREWOLF FROM THESE FRONTIER PARTS UTTER THE NAME OF DRACULA...?

A PURSUER FROM WALACHIA...
HOW DID HE FIND ME HERE...?
HOWEVER ...
I THOUGHT I HAD HIDDEN THE PRESENCE OF MY DEVIL POWERS

JUST LIKE A DOG...
...HE CAME HERE BY TRACKING MY SCENT.
HMPH!
...I SEE.
THEN ...
...THERE'S NO LONGER ANY REASON TO HIDE MY POWERS...

YOU.
YOU SAID YOU NEEDED MY POWERS.
...YOU... WH-WHY...
IF...
...WHAT MY POWERS ARE LIKE.
YOU DON'T KNOW...

MY VEXED, CURSED POWERS.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO RELY ON MY POWERS.
...MY POWERS ARE IN DEFIANCE OF YOUR GOD'S NAME...
IN ORDER TO SAVE THAT WOMAN, YOU MUST COMMIT A SIN.
...WOULD YOU STILL SAY THAT YOU NEEDED THEM?

CHOOSE.
WOULD YOU RATHER PRAY TO GOD AS YOU ARE EATEN BY THIS MONSTER...
...OR WILL YOU CHOOSE TO SURVIVE, AND LIVE ON, CURSING GOD AND YOURSELF?
IF YOU ARE PREPARED FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES...
...THEN I WILL WIELD MY POWERS FOR YOU.
WILL YOU BEAR THE BURDEN OF SIN AND CHOOSE MY POWERS?

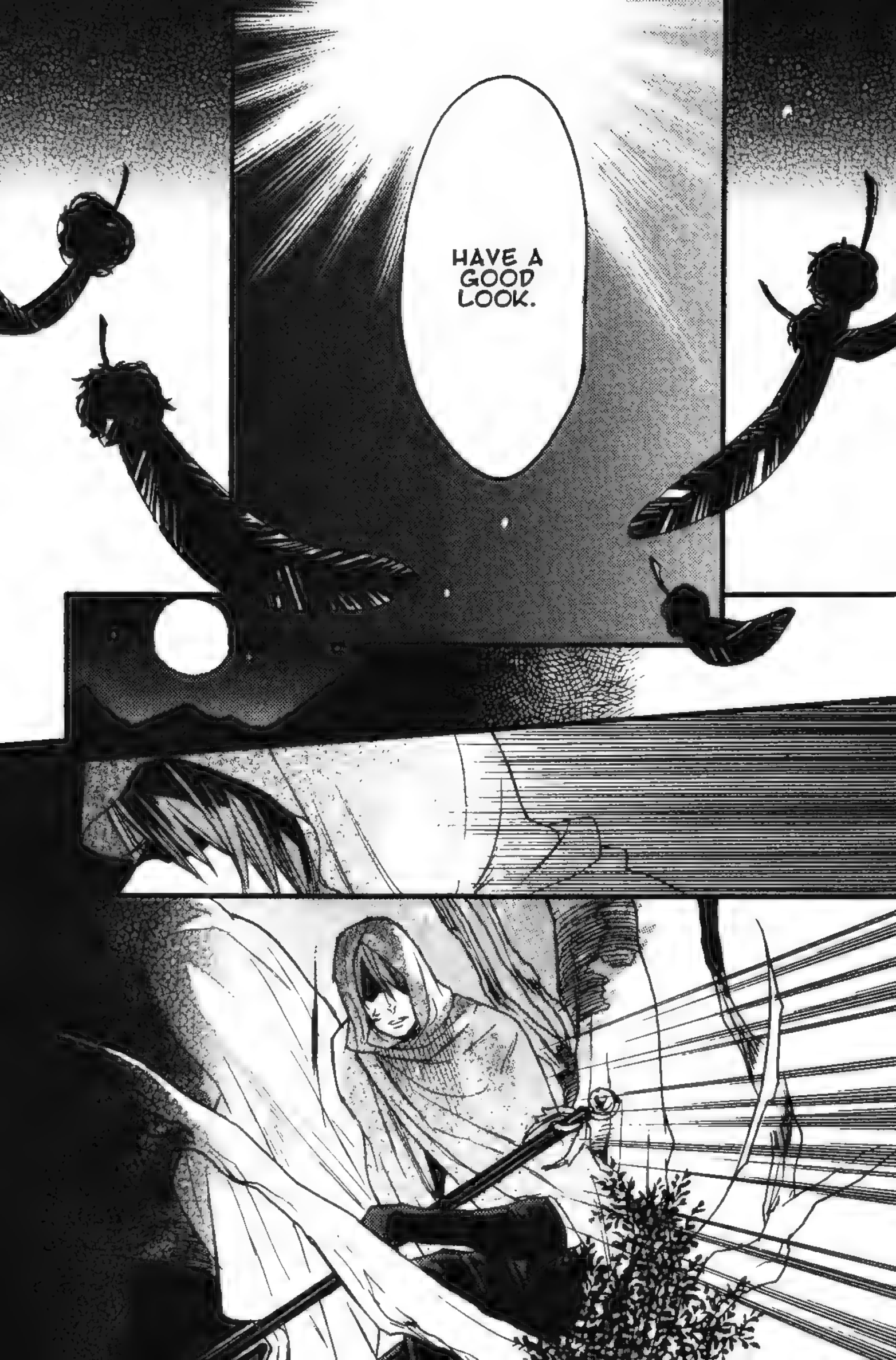
DO NOT WAIT FOR THE HAND OF GOD. CHOOSE BY YOUR OWN FREE WILL.

YOUR POWERS.
...NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE.
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR POWERS ARE.
IF YOU CAN SAVE ROSALEE...
...EVEN IF GOD IS ANGERED...
...I'LL ACCEPT THE PUNISHMENT!

GYAAAAAAA...
EVEN IF YOU'RE...
...THE DEVIL...
LEND ME YOUR POWERS!!
I...

GYAAA
GYAAA...
GYAAA...

ALL RIGHT...
MY NAME IS HECTOR.
THIS POWER OF MINE IS CURSED...


HAVE A GOOD LOOK.

JUST NOW...
...ISAAC, SIR?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
.....?
SO NONE OF YOU NOTICED.
NEVER MIND.
WHAT WAS--?

THAT DAMNED HECTOR...
HE'S FINALLY USING HIS DEMONIC POWERS...
.....
ALTHOUGH IT TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED...
SO USING THE WEREWOLF PAID OFF
I'M PLEASED.
IT PLEASES ME, HECTOR...
HEH ...
HEH HEH HEH...

SO YOU WEREN'T DEAD AFTER ALL...
...WERE YOU, HECTOR?

I HAD ORDERED HECTOR TO CARRY OUT...
...THE TASK OF SLAYING BELMONT.
!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
HOW-EVER...
...SEVERAL DAYS AGO HECTOR'S PRESENCE DISAPPEARED.

HE VANISHED INTO THE NIGHT, ALONG WITH SEVERAL DEVILS I SENT WITH HIM...
HECTOR? NO WAY...!
IF IT WASN'T BELMONT ...
...THEN WHO COULD HAVE VAN-QUISHED SOME-ONE AS POWER-FUL AS HECTOR?
IT WASN'T BELMONT.
HE HAS NOT ENTERED WALA-CHIA YET.
HECTOR... I HESI-TATE TO CONSIDER THE POS-SIBILITY, BUT...

YOU ARE TO FIND HECTOR.
ISAAC.
GO WEST. INVESTI-GATE WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT WHO WILL PROTECT THIS CASTLE...?

ゴロゴロ
F-FOR-GIVE ME.
I WAS OUT OF LINE...
.....
HIS POWERS... IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE THEM.
UNDER-STAND THIS.
IF HECTOR IS DEAD THEN THAT IS FINE.
BUT IF NOT, THEN YOU MUST BRING HIM BACK ALIVE.

IF HE HAS BE-TRAYED ME...
...THEN I SHALL USE MY MAGIC TO TRANSFORM HIM INTO AN ESPECIALLY HIDEOUS DEMON.
HE SHALL CRAWL ON THE GROUND ...
...AND DRINK SEWAGE ...
...AS A HIDEOUS MONSTER.
NO ONE...
NO ONE...
... SHALL ...
...BE FORGIV-EN FOR BETRAY-ING ME.

GO.
I SHALL GIVE YOU A WEREWOLF.
YOU MUST FIND HECTOR.
I

BUT AT A CRITICAL TIME LIKE THIS...

IF BOTH WERE GONE, THEN THERE WOULD BE PLANS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, BUT...
TO HAVE US SEARCH FOR SOMEONE WHO MAY NOT EVEN BE ALIVE? THE COUNT MUST BE MAD.
THAT'S TRUE.
EVEN THOUGH SIR HECTOR, ALONG WITH SIR ISAAC, LED BOTH WINGS OF OUR ARMY...
.....
OH WELL...
IT MEANS THAT THE COUNT FAVORED LORD HECTOR THAT MUCH...
!!

.....
F--
FORGIVE ME...
YOU GREEN-HORNS, YOU CAN'T EVEN SENSE HIS PRES-ENCE.
THE WAVE-LENGTHS OF DEMONIC POWER...
!
THAT MEANS...
WE'RE GOING. HECTOR IS NOT DEAD.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S CLOSE.

HECTOR... SO AFTER ALL, HE IS...
HUFF
!
WHAT WAS THAT....?

D--
THOSE BLACK WINGS...
DAMN YOU ...!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY...?!
WHY HAVE YOU...?
YOU...

GWAAAAH!
...NGH...
.....!!
YOU'RE ONE OF OUR...

.....
I'M ONE OF YOUR WHAT...?
A REAL DEVIL?!

I SEE... N-NOW I UNDER-STAND!
W-WAIT!
IF YOU WANT THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD, YOU CAN HAVE THEM!
I-I-I'M SORRY FOR TRYING TO TAKE THEM FROM YOU.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO AGAINST YOU...
I JUST ...
I JUST CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS TOLD TO TRACK YOUR SCENT.
SO YOU FIGURED, ALONG THE WAY...

...THAT YOU'D EAT SOME HUMANS WHILE YOU WERE AT IT.
—
"POWER IS ABSOLUTE."

THAT'S RIGHT. I USED TO ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PRAYED, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I KNELT...
...GOD WOULD DO NOTHING FOR ME.
IN THE END IT WAS ABOUT POWER. PURE POWER...
AND WHEN IT CAME TO POWER, THERE WAS NOTHING GREATER THAN A DEMON'S POWER...

...EVEN IF IT WAS LEARNED FROM A DEMON.
POWER ITSELF WAS NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL.
.....
BUT...
W-WAIT...
!
BUT AFTER ALL, A DEMON'S POWER IS DEMON'S POWER.

NO MAT-TER HOW POWER-FUL IT IS...
AND THAT IS...
W-WAIT...!
...CURSED POWER BRINGS NOTHING BUT UNHAPPINESS.
...THE DEMON'S POWER.
NO...!

IS
THIS...

...IS THIS...
A DEMON...?
BUT...
...THIS GUY...
...MY POWER THAT YOU WANTED?

!!
SIR ISAAC!
SO YOU SENSED IT THIS TIME.
SO IT'S TRUE!
THAT SURGE OF POWER WE JUST FELT...

THE WERE-WOLF'S PRESENCE HAS DIS-APPEARED!
DAMMIT!
THAT EASILY?!
COULD IT BE....
...THAT SIR HECTOR ...?
BUT STILL...
...WE CAN'T BE SURE YET...

IT WAS HECTOR.
JUST NOW...
THAT WAS HECTOR.
GYAAA
...I CAN.
EVEN IF YOU GUYS CAN'T TELL...

SO "EASILY"?
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT PIDDLING WERE-WOLF...
...IS NO MATCH FOR YOU!
HA HA...
HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU ARE OUR DEMON ARMY'S MOST POWERFUL MASTER.

HECTOR...
HEH HEH... I SEE...
SO HECTOR IS NOW MY ENEMY...
HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
.....
HA HA HA HA HA ...!
THEN...
...WE SHOULD ...
YES.
WE MUST REPORT TO THE COUNT...

IF SIR HECTOR IS OUR OPPONENT, WE WON'T STAND A CHANCE.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
THEN I SHALL TEMPO-RARILY RETURN--
!!

WHA...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SIR ISAAC?!

THERE IS NO NEED...
...TO REPORT.
?!
HECTOR ...
...WAS DEAD.
WHEN WE FOUND HIM, HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.
SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE...
.....!
...TO BRING HIM BACK.

DAMN YOU!
SO FIRST HECTOR, AND NOW YOU?!
WHAT...
ARE YOU BETRAY-ING US?!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
SIR ISAAC!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU, ISAAC...!

?!
GO ABEL.

!!
AAA
AAH..AAH...
AAH..AAH...

HA
HA
HA!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
HA
HA
HA
!!

ブス…
ボロ…
……
COME BACK, ABEL.

EVEN IF HECTOR IS NOT AROUND ANYMORE, I CAN SERVE AS COUNT DRACULA'S AIDE SUFFICIENTLY...
I AM ALWAYS COUNT DRACULA'S LOYAL SERVANT.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
ME? BETRAY COUNT DRACULA...?

THAT VILLAGE...
THE ONLY PLACE TO HIDE ONE'S DEMONIC POWERS IS IN A PLACE WHERE GOD'S POWER IS STRONG.
MOST LIKELY A PLACE WHERE GOD IS CELE-BRATED ...
I THOUGHT THAT ONE DAY WE WOULD FACE EACH OTHER TO THE DEATH, HECTOR.

FROM THE MOMENT WE FIRST MET...

Castlevania Curse of Darkness

Chapter 2: Isaac
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

TCH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY AND GET UP.
AGH!
BUT I'M SO--
WE HAVE TO HURRY.
HURRY ...
HUFF
HUFF
IF WE GET THROUGH THIS FOREST IT SHOULD BE CLOSE.
WE NEED TO GET THERE BEFORE MORNING.

SO THIS IS...
.....!
WE HAD ALREADY COME THIS CLOSE TO IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.

THE CASTLE OF THE VAMPIRE COUNT DRACULA...
IN FOLLOWING THE DEVIL'S PATH, HE BECAME ONE OF THE UNDEAD WHO SURPASSED ALL HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.
THAT IS THE DEVIL'S CASTLE!
.....

ARE YOU AFRAID?
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR.
LOOK ...
THE TREES, THE AIR, EVEN THE STATUES AROUND THE CASTLE ENTRANCE ARE STEEPED IN THE DEVIL'S POWER.
THE COUNT IS SAID TO BE GENEROUS TOWARDS THOSE WHO TURN THEIR BACK ON GOD, LIKE US.

IT TRULY IS MAGNIFI-CENT...
TRULY...
THIS INDEED IS THE PLACE I HAVE BEEN SEEKING ...
.....
GULP...
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR.
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN GO ANYMORE...

THIS CURSED DEVIL'S CASTLE...

2 YEARS LATER...
I
.....
ゆら!
OH DEVIL'S POWER ...

GATHER HERE...
...TO THE TUNE OF A SOUL WITHOUT REASON... PLAY BY MY OWN LIFE.
TO ONE NOT OF THE WORLD OF MAN...
....AN UNTAINTED SOUL...
...BE BORN HERE NOW!!

……!!
オオオオ
DAMN

...AS I THOUGHT, REFINING A HIGH LEVEL DEMON IS DIFFICULT.
SOME-THING ALONG THE LINES OF A FAIRY IS SIMPLE, BUT...
HOW CAN I DO IT...?
IT SEEMS YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE, ISAAC.

THE IMAGE IN YOUR MIND IS NOT CLEAR, THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP FAILING AT THE LAST STAGE.
DON'T LOOK SO SCARED NOW.
I JUST CAME TO GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.
YOU HAVE MUCH POWER, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT STABILI-ZING IT.
コトン

THE HARD PART IS GIVING SHAPE AND SOUL TO A SIMPLE MASS OF DEVIL'S POWER.
.....
IF YOU WORK ON REFINING IT, EVEN A HUMAN CAN CONCEN-TRATE THE DEVIL'S POWER.
IN ORDER FOR A MASS OF ENERGY WITHOUT CONSCIOUS-NESS...
...TO BE TRANS-FORMED INTO A LIVING DEVIL...
...YOU MUST GIVE IT A SHELL AND APPLY STABLE POWER TO THAT SHELL.

THE MORE POWERFUL THE DEVIL, THE LARGER ITS POWER, SO STABILIZING IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT.
IF YOU FAIL...
...IT MAY COME BACK AND HIT YOU...
.....
ADVICE? DON'T BE FOOLISH.

...WANT...?
NOTHING IN PARTI-CULAR.
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BECOME SO KIND?
TALK! WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I JUST WANT TO BE HELPFUL TO YOU.

YOU'RE SO PRETTY...
THERE ARE MANY DIFFER-ENT TYPES OF BEINGS IN THIS CASTLE ...
...BUT I LIKE YOU THE BEST.
AND MORE-OVER...
...YOU HAVE A STRONG...
...STRONG...
...SCENT OF DESIRE ABOUT YOU...

……!!
ボタッ
ボタッ
…HEH…
HEH HEH…
HEH HEH HEH HEH…
HEH HEH HEH…
7

YOU'RE SO VIOLENT TOWARDS WOMEN. YOU'RE SUCH A SAVAGE.
HEE HEE...
OH MY...

.....
I JUST WANTED TO HELP YOU GET USED TO THIS CASTLE MORE QUICKLY.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING ONE OF YOU.
YOU'RE SO WRETCHED. YOU'RE SO HUNGRY THAT YOU CAME TO SUCK MY LIFEFORCE.
OH, HOW INSULTING.
HEH HEH ...
BUT YES, IT'S TRUE. YOUR EYES...
YOU SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS... IT MAKES ME SAD.

IT SEEMS THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO LEND A HAND.
AL-READY ...
...YOU HAVE BECOME QUITE FRIENDLY WITH THE DARKNESS, HAVEN'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING FRIENDLY WITH A SUCCUBUS LIKE YOU.
BUT STILL, IT'S NOT ENOUGH...
.....
TCH.

OH YES, COME TO THINK OF IT...
A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BOY, ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOU.
WITH SILVER HAIR...
...ANOTHER HUMAN, JUST LIKE YOU, HAD COME TO THIS CASTLE, SEEKING TO LEARN THE ARTS OF THE DEVIL.
...AND COLD, ICE BLUE EYES ...

THAT BOY...
HE HAD SUCH POWERFUL DEMON MAGIC-- SO MUCH THAT I ALMOST THOUGHT HE WASN'T HUMAN.
IF YOU WANT TO TALK NONSENSE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO TALK TO THOSE BATS OVER THERE? I--
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
BUT I HADN'T MET A HUMAN WHO HAD AS MUCH POWER AS YOU UNTIL NOW.
DEEP ...
DEEP DARK-NESS...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO GET UNDER MY SKIN...
...BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HUMANS HERE IN THIS CASTLE WHO ARE PRACTICING THE DEVIL'S ARTS.

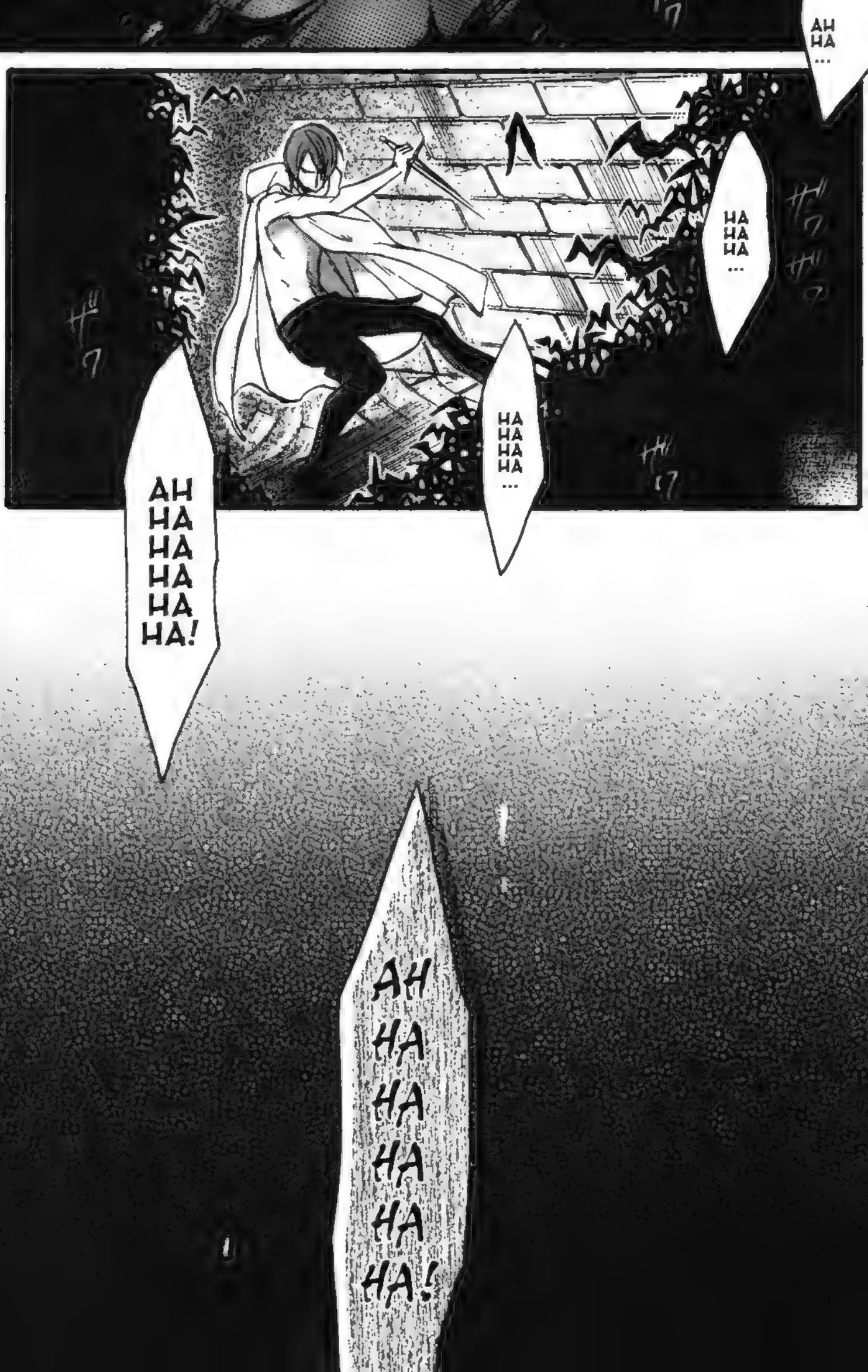
THE DEEPER THE DARKNESS OF ONE'S SOUL...
...THE MORE POWERFUL ONE'S DEMON MAGIC BECOMES.
THAT BOY WILL SURELY BECOME MORE POWERFUL.
MORE POWER-FUL.
PERHAPS ...
YES, MORE POWER-FUL.
...MAYBE MORE POWER-FUL THAN EVEN YOU...

YOU WANT TO TEST ME?

……

THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR EYES...
...ARE SO PRETTY...
HEH HEH HEH ...
HEH ...
HEH HEH ...

IT WILL BE WONDER-FUL IF YOU MELD MORE WITH THE DARK-NESS ...
MORE ...
MORE ...
AND THEN--


AH HA ...
HA HA HA ...
HA HA HA HA ...
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
AH HA HA HA HA HA!

CLAK
SIR ISAAC.

WHAT IS IT?
COUNT DRACULA SUMMONS YOU TO HIS ROOM.
ALL RIGHT.
AWAY WITH YOU.
HMPH. THAT DAMNED SUCCUBUS...
FOR A MERE LOW-CLASS DEMON, SHE HAS A BIG MOUTH.

THESE DEMONS ARE...
...LOW CLASS BEINGS WHO CAN BE RULED BY MASTERING THE DEVIL'S ARTS.
COUNT DRACULA.
I HAVE COME AS YOU HAVE ORDERED.
THE ONLY ONE I SERVE IS MY KING...
...COUNT DRACULA, AND NO OTHER...

To Be Continued

IN THE NEXT

HECTOR LEAVES ROSALEE'S HOUSE AND COMPLETELY ISOLATES HIMSELF WHILE WALLOWING IN OLD MEMORIES AND SELF-PITY. HOWEVER, ISSAC CATCHES UP TO THIS EX-COMMANDER OF DRACULA'S ARMY, AND A BLOODY BATTLE ENSUES. BUT WHILE THESE TWO ARE TRYING TO RIP EACH OTHER APART, DRACULA'S CASTLE IS INVADED BY BELMONT...

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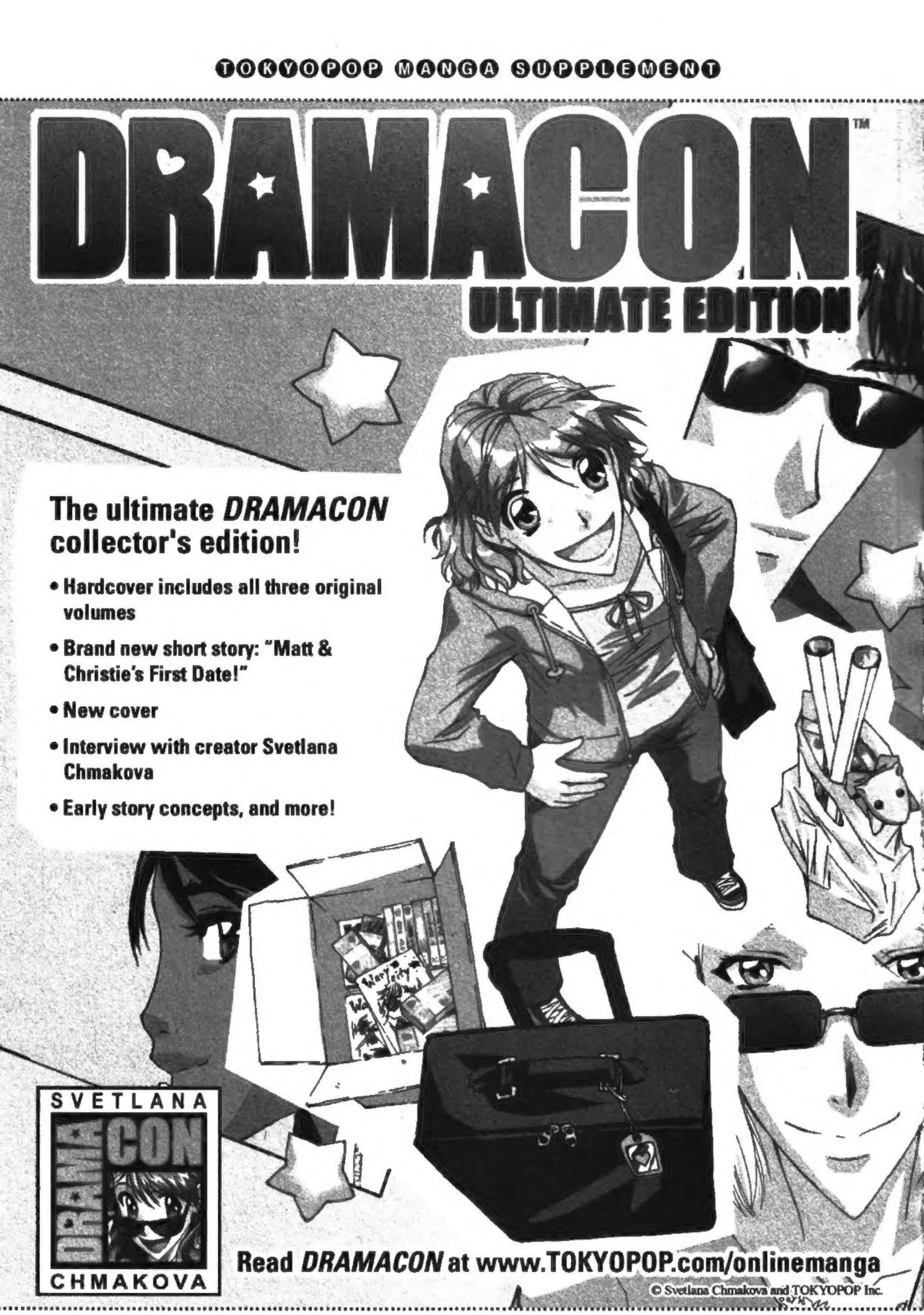

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STOP!

This is the back of the book. You wouldn't want to spoil a great ending!

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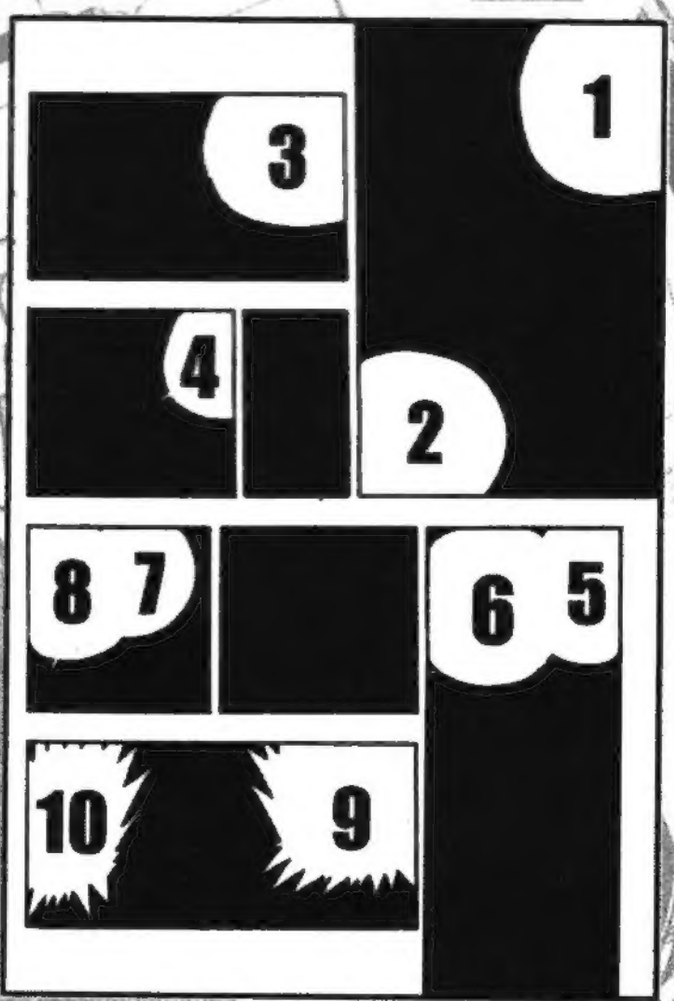

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